

CIA OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM, ELSEWHERE RELATED

Commentators' Roundtable

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(Commentators' Roundtable featuring IZVESTIYA observer Nikolay Polyanov and foreign affairs commentators Leonid Zavyalov and Viktor Shragin)

(Text) Shragin: I should like to open our discussion today with a certain episode that has become a shocking scandal in official Washington. The American radio and press had recently begun to intensively disseminate reports alleging that patriotic forces in South Vietnam had been terrorizing the local population. Such stories were presented to readers with incredible pomp and accompanied by loud commentaries. The authors of these stories gleefully rubbed their hands, thinking that they would have the required effect on the public, which condemns sordid U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

Suddenly a heavy blow was inflicted on American propaganda by none other than Senator Stephen Young of Ohio. This senator, together with a group of his colleagues, had made a tour of Vietnam. Upon return to Washington, Young stated at an interview with newsmen that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was involved in brutalities with premeditation in order to discredit the South Vietnamese partisans. Young stated that in accordance with plans carefully drafted in Washington, specially chosen mercenaries had been sent by American intelligence to murder village headmen, rape women, and plunder peasant houses, and that this was being attributed to partisan activities.

It is indeed natural that Young's revelations should have enraged highly placed Washington officials. At the same time, these revelations have again attracted attention to American intelligence agency activities in various countries. Our listeners know that the United States is openly interfering in the internal affairs of other states. The methods used include the so-called "big-stick," gunboat, and "divide and rule" policies, as well as armed intervention such as aggression in Vietnam or flagrant brute force displayed, for example, in the Dominican Republic. Other less visible means are employed in the struggle against the national liberation movement. These methods are known as "cloak and dagger" politics. The targets of such policies are primarily the newly independent states of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Zavyalov: The American press asserts that there are two governments in the United States--a visible and an invisible government. The first is the government about whose activities one can read in the press and hear on the radio. The second is the government which in fact comprises the U.S. intelligence machinery and operates throughout the world in a secret and unseen fashion.

The invisible government is not restricted to CIA, although CIA forms its nucleus. Nor is it restricted to the activities of nine other government organizations which make up the U.S. intelligence community. It comprises, first and foremost, the National Security Council, the Defense Department's Intelligence Directorate, the National Security Agency, U.S. Army intelligence, U.S. Naval intelligence, U.S. Air Force intelligence, the State Department's Intelligence and Research Bureau, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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